



County of Los Angeles

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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April 16, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Spring Recess: The State Legislature is taking its spring recess. It will reconvene on April 21, 2003.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 1405 (Wolk), as introduced on February 21, 2003, would enact the California Watershed Protection and Restoration Act. It would declare the policy of the State to endorse local, collaborative watershed partnerships as being in the State's interest in terms of effectiveness, citizen involvement and community responsibility.

As required by AB 2117 (Wayne) Chapter 735 of 2000, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) and the Resources Agency (RA) produced a report in April 2002 entitled, "Addressing the Need to Protect California's Watersheds—Working with Local Partnerships." Based on that report's recommendations, AB 1405 creates a formal statewide watershed policy to guide the actions of the State agencies responsible for protecting, restoring and maintaining the State's watersheds. The bill also encourages Cal EPA and the RA to provide assistance and grants, in a uniform and predictable manner, to those who choose to participate in watershed restoration and enhancement pursuant to this bill.

According to the Department of Public Works (DPW), this bill recognizes the need for flexible guidelines and the importance of involvement of local governments in making collaborative partnerships effective. DPW also believes that the bill will create grant funding opportunities for watershed programs from State General Funds, bond funds, or

Each Supervisor
April 16, 2003
Page 2

a combination of local, private, Federal, and specific watershed funds of various State agencies and departments.

DPW recommends that the County support AB 1405, and we concur. Support is consistent with existing Board policy to support measures which, consistent with Board-adopted policies, promote the preservation and restoration of Los Angeles County mountain, bay, watershed, river and wetland areas. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will support AB 1405.**

AB 1405 awaits a hearing date in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. According to the author's staff, AB 1405 is supported by the Regional Council of Rural Counties, the California Watershed Network, and an organization known as "Streaminders." There is no opposition on file.

Status of County-Interest Bills

County-supported AB 120 (Wyland), which would appropriate \$1.1 million in Proposition 50 bond funds for the eradication of *Caulerpa taxifolia* from the Agua Hedionda Lagoon, was set for its first hearing before the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, on April 22, 2003. The hearing was cancelled by the author on April 3, 2003, and the bill remains in the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:DRS:JF:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Local 660
 All Department Heads
 Legislative Strategist
 Coalition of County Unions
 California Contract Cities Association
 Independent Cities Association
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